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Spring, 2002

Dear Friends:

The 2002 short legislative session has ended. While we passed several important pieces of legislation, I am disappointed we did not reach agreement on a major tax restructuring plan or address the state budget deficit.

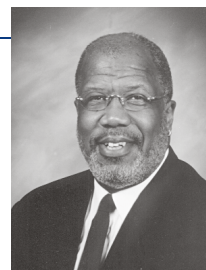
I voted for a plan in the House that would have offset expected property tax increases, created a better climate for economic growth and addressed the current state budget deficit intensified by the national recession. I believe this proposal, while not perfect, answered some of the questions about fairness and equity that have long plagued our tax systems.

I thought we should confront these issues now rather than later if we are to avoid cutting important state services, including funding for public education. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Indiana House and Senate did not share this opinion, and we were unable to establish a compromise in the closing days of the session. It concerns me that the Republicans are unwilling to do anything to address the short-term financial stability of our state. I remain hopeful that we can reach some consensus on these issues in the coming months before deeper, more painful cuts become necessary.

Despite my concerns about the budget deficit and taxes, I am pleased we did enact several proposals to help a variety of Hoosiers. We passed landmark public safety and anti-terrorism legislation, enacted important provisions that protect children and approved several health care initiatives. I have detailed a number of those new laws inside this newsletter.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about state government. You can e-mail me at H3@in.gov or call toll free at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,

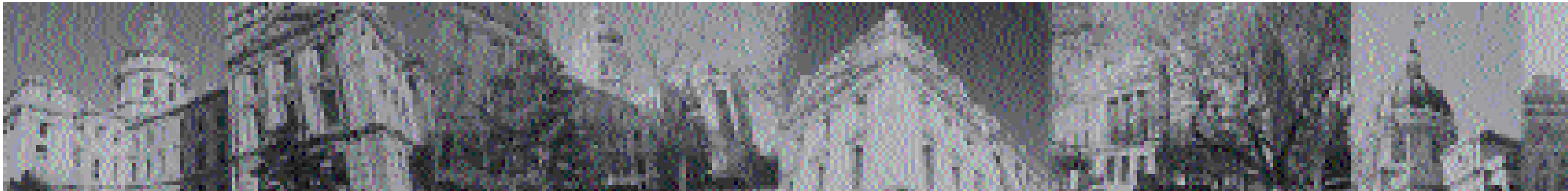


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No agreement on taxes, budget

We reached the March 14 deadline for adjournment with no agreement on restructuring Indiana's tax code and resolving the deficit in the biennial state budget.

House Bill 1004, which I supported and helped pass out of the House, addressed both of those issues. The leaders in the Indiana Senate, however, felt there was no need to address the budget situation at this time.

I voted for a plan that would have reduced the effects of a court-ordered property tax reassessment, encouraged job creation through a series of business initiatives and expanded eligibility for the earned income tax credit. We could have achieved all of this with only a small increase in the state sales tax and the corporate net income tax.

The legislation also addressed our current budget crisis, providing new revenue that would prevent cuts in important state services. We are not alone in our current budget situation as virtually every state in the nation has a budget deficit due to the national recession and lingering effects of the September 11 attacks. I believe we must act now rather than later to avoid future cuts.

Legislature stands together on public safety laws

Lawmakers act against terrorism, other threats

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, officials across the country took a serious look at the ability of local emergency systems to respond to a similar threat. The members of the Indiana General Assembly passed several laws during this session to help meet the challenge of our new defense requirements.

House Bill 1001 establishes a Counter-Terrorism and Safety Council (C-TASC) that will serve as the coordinating state agency for emergency management response to terrorist acts. Chaired by the lieutenant governor, the council will develop anti-terrorism strategy, including placing an affiliate of the council in each county, coordinating efforts with the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, and implementing counter-terrorism training in the state law enforcement academy.

Part of a \$1.25 BMV service charge will be used to develop an integrated wireless public safety system to help connect agencies across the state in case of an emergency (see article on Project Hoosier SAFE-T). A portion of

the service charge will also be used to alleviate the state police crime laboratory backlog.

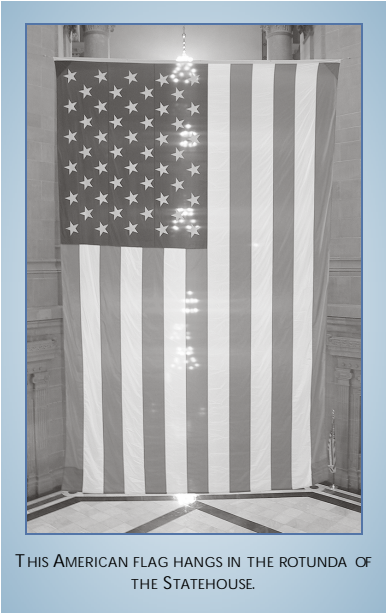
The law includes penalties for several terrorist and public safety issues, including:

- money laundering to support terrorist activities
- restrictions on the issuance of commercial driver's licenses and hazardous materials endorsements
- penalties concerning regulated explosives or devices, the possession of a weapon of mass destruction or the intent to cause a person to believe that a substance is a weapon of mass

destruction

- disorderly conduct on airport premises
- interruption or impairment of work at a food processing facility
- the expulsion of a student who brings a destructive device on school property.

While no one foresaw the devastation of the September attacks, we are taking every step possible to maintain Indiana's safety to the fullest extent.



Project Hoosier SAFE-T

Part of the new anti-terrorism law provides funding for Project Hoosier SAFE-T, a system that allows public safety agencies to communicate with each other during emergencies.

Any event that crosses county lines, such as a severe storm, a police chase or a fatal accident puts the first responders and the victims at risk if officials are unable to cooperate and respond quickly.

Legislators expand sex offender registry

A new law expands the sex offender registry by requiring offenders to register with the sheriff in the county in which they live, and that county sheriffs jointly maintain a sex offender registry Website containing the photograph, address and other information about an offender.

Election reform

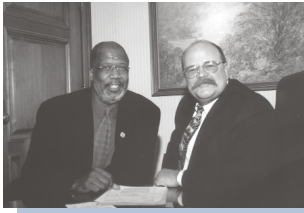
House Bill 1101 continues recent trends in election reforms by allowing people to cast a provisional ballot if they believe they are registered to vote in their precinct, but their names are not listed on the voter rolls. Election officials would verify that they are eligible to vote after all ballots are cast. The bill also ensures that voters have a chance to correct their ballots should they make a mistake.

Child protection remains a top legislative priority

This year some of our finest work in the legislature came in passing laws to improve upon the safety of Indiana's children. The Amber Alert program, set forth in Senate Bill 20, establishes a missing child network. This network includes a statewide, toll-free telephone line to report missing children and sightings of missing children, a clearinghouse of child identification and investigative information, and agreements with local television stations to broadcast information about a missing child.

Legislators took several steps against sexual predators. Senate Bill 482 toughens laws against soliciting a child over the Internet, permitting a police officer to pose undercover as a child in order to capture offenders. This law also makes it a crime to fondle oneself in front of a child.

In recent years there has been an increase of Websites that specialize in photos of children and child pornography. House Bill 1010 applies existing state laws dealing with child exploitation, possession of child pornography and obscenity to these digital images.



REP. BROWN DISCUSSES LEGISLATION WITH SPEAKER JOHN R. GREGG.

Crime legislation addresses variety of issues

Each year the Legislature passes a number of bills that create new offenses or toughen penalties against existing crimes. During the 2002 session, lawmakers passed a measure designed to provide some relief for family and friends of people who have been murdered.

House Bill 1012 requires the judge in certain murder cases to allow relatives to make victim impact statements in open court after the sentence is passed on an offender. Giving family and friends a chance to convey their feelings about a horrible crime to the person who committed it can have positive psychological effects for the mourners. In addition, impact statements help reinforce the severity of the crime to the offender and give that person a chance to show remorse for their actions.

Another new law will penalize fuel retailers who artificially inflate gas prices in times of crisis. House Bill 1015 will allow the Indiana attorney general to investigate complaints on price gouging and seek relief that would include fines and restitution to victims.

House Bill 1005 is designed to prevent people from throwing such burning material as lit cigarettes from moving vehicles. Anyone found guilty of the crime could receive a fine of up to \$1,000.

Additionally, new laws increase the penalties for such crimes as battery by body waste and leaving the scene of a boating accident.

Telephone Privacy List

If you haven't yet registered for the Telephone Privacy List, you still have time. Although the list is already in effect, it is updated every three months. If you register now, your name will be included when the updated list takes effect July 1, 2002.

How to register

You may register by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-834-9969. You may also register online at the Attorney General's Website. Go to www.in.gov/attorneygeneral and scroll down the page until you come to the ringing phone icon. This will take you to the Telephone Privacy List page. Click on the link that says "Register Here," and fill out the form.

Certain exceptions

Registering with the Telephone Privacy List will not eliminate all telemarketing calls. Four types of solicitors are exempt from the law: Charitable organizations using volunteers or employees to make calls; newspapers using employees; insurance agents; and realtors.

Prescription Drug Help

HOOSIERRx, the state's prescription drug plan, provides refunds (with certain maximum limits) to low-income seniors who have no health insurance coverage for their prescription drug expenses.

You may be eligible if you are:

1. At least 65 years old
2. Are not covered under prescription drug insurance or Medicaid
3. Have a monthly net income of \$967 or less if you are single, or a monthly net income of \$1,307 if you are married

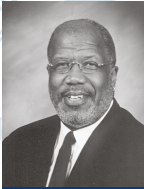
Call 866-267-4679 for more information.

Prescription Drug Cards

Several companies now provide prescription drug discount cards for senior citizens. The qualifications vary depending on the company.

Some companies currently participating include Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Novartis and GlaxoSmithKline.

Please call my office at 1-800-382-9842 for an informational card on this program.



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